



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON STREET, 40TH FLOOR  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

December 7, 2000

Mr. Mark J. Steger  
McBride Baker & Coles  
500 West Madison Street, 40<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60661-2511

SR-6J

Re: Unilateral Administrative Order (Docket No. V-W-00-6-413)  
Fansteel, Inc., North Chicago, Lake County, Illinois

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



229937

Dear Mr. Steger:

This letter responds to your November 17, 2000, letter to Thomas Krueger of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 Office of Regional Counsel regarding the Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) issued to Fansteel, Inc. (Fansteel), to conduct an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) at its North Chicago, Illinois facility.

Thank you for providing Fansteel's notice of intent to comply with the UAO. Under the terms of the UAO, U.S. EPA agrees to your request to extend the deadline for Fansteel's submittal of the draft EE/CA until July 12, 2001.

The U.S. EPA acknowledges Fansteel's agreement to submit the final site investigation report by Friday, January 26, 2001. Earlier this week we held the technical meeting you requested to discuss the draft report, and the U.S. EPA Region 5 committed to provide its comments on the draft report by Tuesday, December 26, 2000, in order to provide adequate time for Fansteel to incorporate the U.S. EPA's comments into the final report.

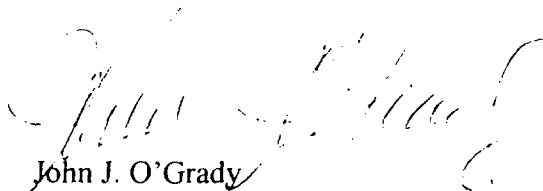
The U.S. EPA agrees generally with Fansteel's understanding that the UAO is intended to memorialize the parties' understandings as to the necessary activities needed to meet the requirements of the June 17, 1997, notice letter. The UAO will ensure that those commitments are met under an enforceable schedule.

U.S. EPA also agrees that: (1) the UAO requires Fansteel to reimburse only the Agency's costs of overseeing the EE/CA; (2) U.S. EPA will be reasonable in its review of Fansteel's selected contractors and subcontractors; and (3) U.S. EPA will discuss any modifications of plans and schedules with Fansteel before finalizing them in writing. A cooperative approach and good communication are essential to the success of the EE/CA process. To that end, U.S. EPA cannot agree to your request that it waive in advance any penalties for late submittal of progress reports required by the UAO. These progress reports are an essential communication tool, and are important to U.S. EPA. However, to the extent Fansteel lets U.S. EPA know in advance that a progress report will be delayed, U.S. EPA is quite willing to provide reasonable extensions of the reporting deadlines.

*December 7, 2000, Letter to Mr. Mark J. Steger  
Re. Unilateral Administrative Order (Docket No. E-W-00-6-413)*

If you have any questions, please contact me at (312) 886-1477.

Sincerely,



John J. O'Grady  
Remedial Project Manager  
Superfund Division

cc: D. Ballotti (U.S. EPA)  
D. Bruce (U.S. EPA)  
E. Garske (CEI)  
J. Jackson (Fansteel)  
M. Karolyi (CEI)  
T. Krueger (U.S. EPA ORC)  
M. Mocniak (Fansteel)  
P. Sorensen (Illinois EPA)